



WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Division of Workforce Solutions
Bureau of Partner Services

TO: **Economic Support Supervisors
Economic Support Lead Workers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators
W-2 Agencies**

FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens
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BPS OPERATIONS MEMO

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Date: 6/20/2002

Non W-2 ☒ W-2 ☐ CC ☐

PRIORITY: High

SUBJECT: **MAPP COLA Disregards**

CROSS REFERENCE: MA Handbook 33.4.2 and 33.5.1

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to clarify how Social Security Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increases should be treated when determining eligibility and premium amounts for the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP).

BACKGROUND

MAPP was automated in CARES in January 2002. CARES was not programmed to handle Social Security COLA increases differently from other Elderly, Blind and Disabled (EBD) Medicaid subprograms. Special processing is currently in place for Medicare Premium Assistance programs (QMB, SLMB, QDWI), so that the increase is not counted until the new federal poverty level income limit is implemented in April or May of the following year. In addition, no special processing was implemented for Section 503, Disabled Adult Children or Widow/Widowers Special Status cases, for which all COLA increases since SSI was terminated are subtracted from their income.

POLICY

- Disregard the current (December 2001) Social Security COLA increase in eligibility and post eligibility (premium) processing for MAPP cases, until the MAPP income limits increase based upon the most recent FPL increase (May 2002).

- For persons who are in one of the special status categories (503, DAC) COLA increases since the individual lost SSI should be subtracted in the eligibility determination but not in the post eligibility (premium) processing.

CARES

CARES programming has not yet been changed to accommodate these policy changes. Each eligibility worker must analyze open MAPP cases to determine if the COLA increase adversely affected the case. If the case was adversely affected (an increase in premium or denied eligibility), please process the case from January forward giving the proper disregards.

Regular MAPP cases (not special status):

If the MAPP case should receive an income deduction of the Social Security COLA increase, reduce the social security income entered on AFUI by this amount and run SFEX with the appropriate dates. The COLA disregard was subtracted from the income on AFUI, so it will not be counted in the eligibility or the premium test. Disregard the current Social Security COLA increase from January 2002 through April 2002.

Special Status MAPP cases:

If the MAPP case should receive a historical 503 or DAC disregard, subtract it from the income entered on AFUI. Run SFEX with appropriate dates. If MAPP eligibility passes, tran back to AFUI and add the disregard back into the amount entered on AFUI. If MAPP eligibility fails, then confirm the failure and the process is complete. If not, run SFEX. In this run the amount will be counted for eligibility and for the premium amount.

OTHER PROGRAMS

There is no impact on other programs.

FORMS OR INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL

MA Handbook release 02-03 includes the MAPP COLA disregard policy in 33.4.2 and 33.5.1.

CONTACT

DWS CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

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Note: Email contacts are preferred. Thank you.